

Press Release
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Deputy Assistant Secretary of State to arrive in La Paz to reaffirm U.S. support for Government and Congress of Bolivia

Ambassador Peter DeShazo, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs of the U.S. Department of State will visit Bolivia for two days, starting Monday, to reaffirm the support of the United States to Bolivian constitutional democracy, as represented by the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches.

The committed financial, political and diplomatic support of the U.S. government and the international community to the economic growth, political stability, and well-being of the people of Bolivia has been recently confirmed once more by the international Support Group led by the United States and Mexico. The Support Group has committed more than \$US 54 million in financial support for Bolivia since January 16, 2004.

DeShazo will hold meetings with President Mesa, government authorities and Congressional political representatives to talk about the positive results of the Support Group meeting, held last week. He will also discuss the Support Group's opinions about the necessity that Bolivia maintain a solid fiscal stability, and the Group's request to all segments of Bolivian society to work jointly with the government to develop and implement economic measures to secure such stability.

Prior to his visit, Ambassador DeShazo, who was a diplomat at the U.S. embassy in La Paz several years ago, said: "Due to my long-term experience with the country, I am very interested in knowing Bolivian plans to meet the current challenges. If possible during this short visit, I hope to visit the Embassy's new support projects for the local economy, such as the 'Aid to Artisans' center in El Alto, where Aimara and Quechua artisans are being advised on how to export more of their beautiful handicrafts to big stores in the United States. In this way, jobs are multiplying and the income of working Bolivians is increasing."

Ambassador DeShazo is a career foreign service officer. From 2001 to 2003 he served as Deputy Representative to the Organization of American States, with Ambassador rank. He was appointed Chairman of the OAS Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs for 2002-2003. He served in several positions in the U.S. embassies in Tel Aviv, Santiago and La Paz. A graduate from Dartmouth University, he earned a post-graduate degree at the Catholic University of Chile and a doctorate in Latin American History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.